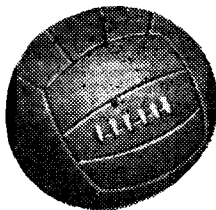


Official Organ of the Victorian

Soccer Football Association



SOCCER

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MELBOURNE

Saturday, 14th August, 1948.

A Little Stocktaking

By "PILGRIM"

It will be generally agreed that no soccer season opened so full of hope as the present one. Everywhere one met enthusiasm. With the Divisions reformed and promotion and relegation operating once more, keen games seemed assured. Close season gossip centred around new clubs and new players. Rumours were rife about some clubs having signed on English and Scottish stars. Names were bandied about that would have made an Arsenal manager groan with envy. The old heads smiled knowingly thinking of the past. Opening articles stressed the need for enterprise by clubs, sound administration by officials, etc., and altogether it was quite an auspicious start. Well the season is now rapidly drawing to a close, and whether it has been the boom we expected or just another season is a matter of opinion.

To my mind things have not been all we wished, and no doubt one could fill a page with criticism of the conduct and progress of the code in general. However it would be wiser to try and find a solution to some of our problems. It is not easy, but I feel that many of our difficulties are caused through us not making more use of the closed season to put our soccer machine in order.

Far too long it has been the practice of using it for six months (April to September), with a little maintenance thrown in, then as

the season ends, putting it away until the next season arrives, hoping against hope that it will run smoothly and efficiently for all concerned. Naturally it suffers wear and tear, and unless we can overhaul it, replacing parts and making adjustments, etc., its performance must be unsatisfactory. We have six months from October to March to do this vital work and much can be accomplished.

The problems of clubs, schoolboys, grounds, propaganda, coaching, finance, etc., are all matters needing much thought and time.

Imagine what a live social committee could do on the V.S.F.A. A monster soccer picnic one Sunday during the summer would be welcomed by the clubs and a big advertisement for the code.

Too little time is given to the administrative side when the Council only meets once a month as at present. Meeting after meeting during the closed season will help in oiling the soccer machine. Small sub-committees of soccer minded men meeting in the friendly atmosphere of each other's homes could accomplish remarkable progress. Definite planning must take place and new men with fresh ideas brought in. This must take place from now on, and it is up to those responsible to see that the closed season is our busiest. The past has proved that waiting until a new season is upon us gets us nowhere.

The publication of "Soccer News" and the tremendous success it has been to the code should inspire us to better things, for behind its publication on the opening day of the season lay months of preparatory work in the closed season.



NEXT SATURDAY'S GAMES

First Division

Brighton v. Moreland, at Hurlingham Park
Yallourn v. Box Hill
Pahran v. Western Suburbs, at Como Park
Sunshine United v. Park Rangers.

Second Division

Coburg v. Northcote, at Glenroy
South Melbourne United v. Bradford, at Middle Park
South Yarra v. Hakoah J.R.C., at Olympic Park
Ringwood v. Preston

Third Division

No games notified at time of going to press.

Reserve League

Same as for First and Second Divisions, but on opposite grounds.

Under 19 Junior Division

Park Rangers v. Preston, at Middle Park
Pahran v. South Yarra, at Como Park
Brighton v. Yallourn, at Hurlingham Park
Box Hill v. Western Suburbs, at Surrey Park
Coburg v. Hakoah J.R.C., at Glenroy

Under 17 Junior Division

South Melbourne United v. Preston, at Middle Park
Box Hill v. Brighton, at Surrey Park
Sunshine United v. Coburg

Under 15 Junior Division

Preston v. Brighton, at Bell
Ringwood v. Box Hill
Sunshine United v. Northcote

Inter-Association (Under 15) Cup

Metropolis v. Central Gippsland, at Yallourn



AUSTRALIA DEFEATS AUCKLAND

Last Saturday, the Australian Soccer Team defeated a Provincial team at Auckland by 5 goals to nil, and Parsons and Cunningham scored for Australia.

Today the First Test against New Zealand will be played at Wellington.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

First Division

Western Suburbs 4 d. Brighton 2.
Box Hill 1 (Tester) d. Sunshine United 0.
Pahran 6 d. Moreland 1.
Yallourn 1 (McIver) drew with Park Rangers 1 (Cotterell).

Second Division

Hakoah J.R.C. 2 (Meyer 2) drew with Coburg 2.
Bradford 1 d. Ringwood 0.
South Yarra 5 (Stoddart 4, Mitchelson) d. Northcote 0.
South Melbourne United 2 (Guthrie, Carroll) drew with Preston 2 (Beale 2).

Third Division

Melbourne University 14 d. Brighton 0.
Heidelberg "B" v. Macedonians—result not to hand.
George Cross 2 d. Yarraville 1.
Olympic 5 d. Williamstown 3.
Woodlands walk-over from Regent.
Heidelberg "A" walk-over from Metters.

First Division Reserves

Brighton walk-over from Western Suburbs.
Sunshine United 2 d. Box Hill 1 (Bell).
Moreland walk-over from Pahran.
Park Rangers 6 d. Yallourn 1.

Second Division Reserves

Hakoah J.R.C. walk-over from Coburg.
Bradford 6 d. Ringwood 1.
South Yarra walk-over from Northcote.
Preston 7 d. South Melbourne United 1.

Under 19 Junior Division

Preston 4 d. Western Suburbs 2.
Brighton 6 d. Park Rangers 0.
Pahran 3 d. Hakoah J.R.C. 1.
Yallourn walk-over from South Yarra.
Box Hill 1 (Montgomery) d. Coburg 0.

Under 17 Junior Division

South Melbourne United 4 d. Box Hill 1.
Brighton walk-over from Coburg.
Preston 3 d. Sunshine United 1.

Under 15 Junior Division

Preston 4 d. Box Hill 1.
Ringwood 1 drew with Brighton 1.
South Melbourne United 11 d. Northcote 0.

PROMOTION AND RELEGATION PROSPECTS

Box Hill's defeat of Sunshine United last Saturday upset Sunshine from the top position of the First Division, a position which it has held practically right throughout the season.

Box Hill now heads the list, and indications now point to them as being the 1948 Champions. With only one match to go, against Yallourn next Saturday, Box Hill's prospects are indeed bright, although Yallourn will make them fight every inch of the way for a victory. Sunshine's only hope of taking the honours now is for a victory next Saturday against Park Rangers and Box Hill to be defeated by Yallourn, which seems very improbable.

The most interesting part of the top division now is the battle against relegation. Western Suburbs surprise defeat of Brighton last Saturday, brought them from bottom position to third last, and it appears now that Yallourn and Moreland may be relegated, for both these teams have very hard matches in the final round of league games to be played next Saturday, Yallourn against the leaders, Box Hill, and Moreland against Brighton, who are running third. Western Suburbs appear to have the easiest match, although Prahran has improved out of sight in its recent games. Yallourn lost its chance of avoiding relegation last Saturday. Had they won their game against Park Rangers instead of sharing the points, their prospects of remaining in the top division would have been much brighter.

In the Second Division, Bradford has won its way into the top grade for season 1949, and South Yarra looks as if it will accompany them. South Melbourne United's chances of promotion now are very remote as they meet the division leaders, Bradford next Saturday in their final match. Their only hope now is for a win against Bradford, and for South Yarra to lose against Hakoah, which seems very unlikely. Ringwood and Northcote cannot improve their positions, and are destined to go down to the Third Division.

It seems improbable that a second round of fixtures will be commenced in the lower division, which means that this division will have now completed its fixtures, and at this stage it appears that Melbourne University and Heidelberg will be promoted.

The set-up now for the senior divisions for season 1949, appears to be as follows:—

First Division: Box Hill, Sunshine United, Brighton, Park Rangers, Prahran, Western Suburbs, Bradford and South Yarra.

Second Division: Yallourn, Moreland, South Melbourne United, Hakoah J.R.C., Coburg, Preston, Melbourne University and Heidelberg.

Third Division: Ringwood, Northcote, George Cross, Olympic, Yarraville, Woodlands, Williamstown, Macedonians, Metters and other new clubs.

If sufficient new clubs affiliate for next season, it might so happen that a Fourth Division will have to be formed, having eight teams in each of the first three divisions, and the remainder in the fourth division. To the writer's knowledge there will be at least three new clubs—Sandringham City, a new club from Box Hill, and an Italian Society team.

In the Reserve and Junior Divisions, respective winners appear to be: First Division, Brighton. Second Division, South Yarra. Under 19 Juniors, Brighton. Under 17, South Melbourne United. Under 15, South Melbourne United.



SEMI-FINALISTS TODAY

Box Hill

The Box Hill Club was formed in 1925 with Mr. A. E. Weston as its first President, and after winning the premiership in the Second Division earned its place in the First Division.

In the early days of the club a strong team was always fielded and they were prominent in the Dockerty Cup competition. Such names as Jim Willis, Jim Giles, Bill Johnson, Joe English, Tommy Miller, and many others provided the playing talent, and sterling work was done by Messrs. J. Young, H. Craddock, and Mr. Weston in an administrative capacity. You can still hear the old timers on the line saying, "That lad is nearly as good as Jim Willis," or when an opportunity to score has been missed, "What would Jimmy Giles have done with that one."

During the depression the game lagged in Box Hill and only by the efforts of a few was the game able to keep going at all.

The Club was just starting to find its feet again when the war intervened and the senior players went into the Services.

From 1940 until 1945 Junior and School-boy teams only were available and the backbone of the senior teams at present have been provided by the juniors of that period. The credit for the organising of these junior teams must go to Mr. McKellar, Senior, who looked after them like "Mother Carey's Chickens," and the Club owes him a lot for his work with these boys. This was recognised last year when he was made a Life-member of this Club.

Present senior players in Lester Hutchinson, Bill Tester, Don Hutchinson, "Docker" Mountford, and Jack Holborn, all received their initial experience in the game in this period, while Archie McKellar has been prominent both as a player and Secretary of the Club.

The Club during season 1942 won the "Glen-Sheppard Cup," "Dunkling Shield," and "J. J. Liston Cup," and also were runners-up in the Junior League.

1943 both teams won their league division premierships, the "Dunkling Shield," and the "J. J. Liston Cup."

In season 1945 the Club returned to the senior competition, and with the erstwhile juniors providing the speed and the older players in Jack Bailey, and Bill Stewart adding their experience, the side reached the final of the Dockerty Cup, being beaten ultimately by the Moreland-Hakoah combine.

In 1946 the Club again had a fair season finishing in fourth place in the First Division, and reaching the semi-final of the Dockerty Cup in which they were defeated by Prahran.

Interest is growing in soccer in Box Hill as this year the Club is fielding five teams in the various grades, and we have been honoured by the selection of our goalie, Alan Gravell to tour New Zealand with the Australian team.

Prominent juniors this season in Vic Warry and Ron Davis have now reached the senior team and are acquitting themselves well. Another in Jack Overall has been selected in the Victorian Junior Team to visit South Australia next month, whilst in 1945, Don Hutchinson, Bill Tester, and "Docker" Mountford also played against the South Australian Juniors in Adelaide.

This year the Club is having an excellent season, and at present have within their grasp the coveted double of League Premiers and winners of the Dockerty Cup.

The Club has a band of willing workers and much credit must go to the President, Mr. T. Buist, the Treasurer, John Fox, and last but not least, Bob Brown who has served the Club faithfully over a long period.

Park Rangers

Last year Park Rangers appeared in the final of the Dockerty Cup and were eventually defeated by South Yarra the present holders.

Until season 1945 this Club was known as South Melbourne United Juniors and in 1946 the Club became Park Rangers.

In Junior ranks they have a record to be proud of, having won the Junior League Premiership four years in succession—in 1944 and 1945 as South Melbourne United, and in 1946 and 1947 as Park Rangers. More remarkable still is their record in the Junior Cup, having won this trophy six times in a row—four years as South Melbourne United and two years as Park Rangers.

The following details are of interest regarding season 1946—

Seniors—Runners-up Second Division Cup, goals 16 to 7 against. Premiers South Section Second Division League, goals 53 to 10 against.

Juniors—Won Junior Cup, goals 13 to 3 against. Premiers Junior League, goals 61 to 12 against.

Players who have been with the Club since starting as juniors in 1942 are Peter Clark, Dave Dickinson, Jock Mackie and Jack Ivey, and others of more recent years are R. Fraser, R. Fox, Harry Howieson, R. Pinder and D. Mitchell.

It is of interest to note that the following players have appeared in several Junior Cup finals: Harry Howieson (3), 1944-5-6. E. Nelson and A. Nelson (2 each) 1946-7. "Curley" Hughes (2) 1946-7, while still competing in junior ranks in 1948 are the Nelson brothers, Hughes, Hines and J. Petterson.

In September the Victorian Under 19 team goes to play South Australia for the "Skolnik" Cup and Park Rangers players in the Victorian team are E. Nelson, A. Nelson, "Curley" Hughes and J. Petterson. Congratulations to you all.

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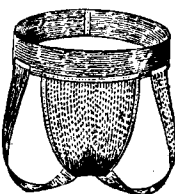
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On the administrative side of the Club are old faithfuls such as Mr. E. Bailey (President), George Ludvigsen (chairman) Alex Mackie (Hon. Secretary) and Norm Bailey.

Alex Mackie (1948 Chairman of Management Committee of the V.S.F.A.) needs no introduction to followers of soccer in Victoria.

He played with Albert Park in the old days, and represented Scotland versus England in Melbourne in 1924, and was captain of Albert Park in 1922 when they won the Dockerty Cup. Alex has given long and faithful service to soccer in Victoria and he was Assistant Secretary of the V.S.F.A. from 1929 to 1940 and has held various offices in the Council of the Association.

Players who have represented Victoria are: Seniors—Jock Mackie (South Africa and H.M.S. "Theseus"), E. Clark (H.M.S. "Theseus"). Juniors—N. Bailey, Harry Howieson and Jock Mackie (South Australia Juniors) also the 1948 representatives for South Australia mentioned above.

Last but not least is Park Rangers present coach "Tich" Sharpe, who is well known to the older generation of soccerites as a brilliant inside-left with the Navy team in their

"hey-day." "Tich" played with Navy when they won the Dockerty Cup in 1928 and represented Victoria against New South Wales and Tasmania.

Box Hill won both of their League battles against Park Rangers this season scoring 3-1, and 3-2 respectively and we hope the teams today provide a real cup-tie "do-or-die" game and may the better side win.



FROM THE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Further to the article some weeks ago by Mr. F. J. Hall, re the selection of the Under 19 Junior team for South Australia, and the fact that players who appear in senior teams are ineligible although within the specified age, the following will be of interest:—

This matter was brought up at the Council meeting and the Chairman has stated that this question was discussed at a Conference of the Australian Association, and it was decided that the States came to an agreement between themselves.

Victoria desired that age be the one qualification required, but South Australia objected, and so the present arrangement came into being. It has now been ruled that to reverse this decision we can only approach the South Australian Association at the next conference of the Australian Association, which we hope will be done in due course.

It has been decided that the Under 15 Schoolboys representative team which should have gone to Queensland to take part in the Interstate Schools' Carnival, will now visit Yallourn on August 21, to play a team representing the Central Gippsland Schoolboys Association. Mr. Norm Shingles, of Brighton, has been appointed manager, whilst Mr. Bill Tomlinson, of South Melbourne United, has been appointed assistant manager and coach.



AN APOLOGY

Owing to this issue being more or less a Cup issue, we apologise for omission of certain Club Jottings, however where possible, news held over this issue will be published in our next week's paper.

CLUB JOTTINGS

GEORGE CROSS CLUB'S GALA DANCE

On Saturday, July 24, the George Cross Soccer Club held a Gala Dance at the Unity Hall, Bourke Street, City. It was a most successful and enjoyable evening. Mr. E. D. Gatt, the Club President, who acted as M.C. kept things moving with never a dull moment.

The Floor Show was excellent entertainment and very well presented. The novelty dances kept everyone interested and although the prizes were inexpensive they were received with much pleasure by the various winners. The climax of the evening was the result of the competition which was run in conjunction with the Dance. The winning numbers were drawn by Baby Tammett, who is about four years of age. He was standing on a chair on the stage so as all could see him. He drew out each ticket very seriously. The winners were as follows:—First, No. 918, Miss Lena Drew, 238 Errol St., North Melbourne; second, No. 1995, Mr. Prest, 66 Park St., South Melbourne; third, No. 1626, Mr. Roy Mercieca Flemington Training School; fourth, No. 253, Mr. Ken Aquis, 68 Munder Terrace, North Melbourne.

The George Cross Club wish to express their grateful thanks to all who attended, and all who helped in any way to make the Dance a success.

Park Rangers Notes

The next dance will be held on Saturday, 14th August, at Christ Church Hall, Acland Street, St. Kilda. The players and officials hope that they will be celebrating the defeat of Box Hill in the second semi-final of the Dockerty Cup.

The Club officials congratulate the four members of the Junior team who have been selected to go to Adelaide at the end of August.

★ ★ ★

CONGRATULATIONS

Followers of soccer will be pleased to hear that one of our Council members, Mr. Howard Ingham has been appointed a Trustee of Olympic Park. Congratulation Mr. Ingham.

SELECTION OF REFEREES

With reference to the serious complaint allegedly brought to the notice of the Referees Association, I would like to ask if it is founded on fact or rumour, if the Referees Association has definite evidence that the Referees Selection Committee has been granting favours to some Clubs, then it is about time these facts were placed before the Council of the Victorian Association so that appropriate action can be taken, but if founded on rumour, as no doubt it is valuable space in our soccer journal should not be cluttered up with complaints such as this.

On behalf of the Referees Selection Committee I would like to state that such requests have been made but at no time have they been given the slightest consideration.

The above has been written with the full approval of the Chairman of the Victorian Soccer Council, Mr. W. Cumming.

—A. KERR, Member of Referees Selection Committee.

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HOW THEY STAND

First Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pt.
Box Hill	13	9	2	2	41	25	20
Sunshine United	13	9	1	3	44	19	19
Brighton	13	7	2	4	33	24	16
Park Rangers	13	5	3	5	22	25	13
Prahran	13	5	2	6	33	35	12
Western Suburbs	13	3	3	7	18	41	9
Yallourn	13	3	2	8	36	45	8
Moreland	13	3	1	9	22	35	7

Second Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pt.
Bradford	13	9	3	1	36	10	21
South Yarra	13	8	2	3	45	16	18
South Melb. United	13	7	3	3	35	17	17
Hakoah J.R.C.	13	6	2	5	32	24	14
Coburg	13	6	2	5	35	28	14
Preston	13	6	2	5	32	38	14
Ringwood	13	1	1	11	13	45	3
Northcote	13	1	1	11	12	62	3

Third Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pt.
Melb. University	11	9	2	0	61	8	20
Heidelberg "A"	11	8	1	2	52	9	17
George Cross	11	8	1	2	32	17	17
Olympic	10	8	1	1	26	15	17
Yarraville	10	7	0	3	40	26	14
Woodlands	11	6	2	3	21	22	14
Williamstown	11	4	1	6	22	35	9
Macedonians	10	3	1	6	14	31	7
Brighton	11	3	0	8	24	45	6
Metters	11	1	1	9	14	33	3
Regent	11	1	0	10	7	29	2
Heidelberg "B"	10	1	0	9	6	49	2

Note.—The Heidelberg "B" v. Macedonians result not to hand and therefore not included in above ladder.

First Division Reserves

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pt.
Brighton	13	11	2	0	56	10	24
Park Rangers	13	9	2	2	50	18	20
Prahran	13	7	1	5	38	26	15
Western Suburbs	13	6	0	7	34	50	12
Box Hill	13	5	1	7	42	28	11
Yallourn	13	4	1	8	37	55	9
Moreland	13	4	1	8	22	46	9
Sunshine United	13	2	0	11	16	62	4

Second Division Reserves

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pt.
South Yarra	13	13	0	0	38	9	26
South Melb. United	13	10	0	3	61	19	20
Bradford	13	10	0	0	41	16	20
Hakoah J.R.C.	13	6	1	6	7	22	13
Preston	13	5	2	6	29	26	12
Coburg	13	2	2	9	6	16	6
Ringwood	13	2	1	10	10	53	5
Northcote	13	1	0	12	7	38	2

Under 19 Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pt.
Brighton	12	12	0	0	61	8	24
Yallourn	13	9	1	3	35	13	19
Park Rangers	13	9	0	4	58	18	18
Preston	13	6	2	5	36	28	14
Coburg	12	4	4	4	20	22	12
Western Suburbs	13	5	2	6	26	34	12
Box Hill	12	4	2	6	26	30	10
Prahran	13	4	2	7	30	43	10
Hakoah J.R.C.	12	3	1	8	22	36	7
South Yarra	13	0	0	13	2	84	0

Under 17 Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pt.
South Melb. United	13	12	0	1	46	10	24
Preston	13	11	0	2	49	19	22
Brighton	13	9	0	4	37	16	18
Sunshine United	13	3	0	10	20	39	6
Box Hill	13	3	0	10	19	43	6
Coburg	13	1	0	12	4	48	2

Under 15 Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pt.
South Melb. United	12	10	2	0	91	8	22
Preston	11	8	3	0	47	8	19
Brighton	11	7	2	2	50	12	16
Box Hill	11	4	0	7	7	40	8
Ringwood	11	3	1	7	9	44	7
Sunshine United	11	3	0	8	12	59	6
Northcote	11	0	0	11	0	45	0

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IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

Tactics

By means of a blackboard or the top of a table, marked out to represent the field of play, one can easily illustrate movements and make apparent the value of positional play. In this way players can practice for next week's game and by discussing ideas in anticipation of a keen tussle with great rival forces,

"Post mortems" on last week's encounter can be held, and a repetition of mistakes then made eliminated. Players as a result will enter upon a match keen to overcome any defects in team tactics.

To fully illustrate moves, counters representing players can be made use of when a table top is employed. Schemes creating the element of surprise can be tried out by this method, thus encouraging players to develop the ability to think and act quickly.

The ability to initiate a totally unexpected move is a great asset to a team if it is one

which will further the interests of a side. Great players become great because they refuse to be cramped in their style and confined to orthodox methods, and the main object should be not merely to outwit an opponent but to create a favourable opening for a colleague. In working out schemes on a blackboard or table-top, or during actual practice on the field of play, always bear in mind the abilities of the players forming your team, and fit all planning to your men and not the players to the plan.



SCREEN PUBLICITY

During the forthcoming week the Association's screen slide will be shown at "Alhambra Theatre," Brunswick, and "Glen Theatre," Glenferrie.

